

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1

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Dear FCC,

I want to express my feelings concerning the proposed Amateur Radio Licensing proposals contained in docket number 98-143, specifically in regards to the required morse code testing for privileges of frequencies below 30 mhz. To put in bluntly, required morse code testing is irrelevant in the wake of the 21st century. Here we are knocking on the door of the year 2001 and we are still required to pass a more code examination that is in it self a relic of 19th century technology. I'm not saying that morse code should be banned from the amateur bands, I only feel that it should be treated as just another mode, such as FM, SSB, SSTV, etc. I would propose the mode of CW as it is currently regulated, that only licensed amateur radio operators be allowed to use morse code as a means of communication when they have demonstrated the ability to send and receive morse code in a manner that effectively shows their expertise in the art of sending and receiving morse code. I also want to express my disagreement in the polling performed by ARRL stating that 57 percent favored retaining the mandatory morse code testing, vs 35 percent stating that it was irrelevant. My feeling on these figures is that this survey was flawed at best due to the following, the only people who had a chance to vote were either Arrl members or people who bought the Arrl owned QST magazine which had the voting ballot printed in the magazine, what about all of the other radio amateurs? I propose that a bulk mailing to all licensed amateurs be performed by the FCC using their current address data base in order to get a more accurate picture of how our community feels in regards to mandatory morse code testing. Also, in regards to the decision to delay the debate of S25 until WRC 2001, I can't understand why this issue has been delayed until WRC 2001, this debate is probably the most talked about within our community, why delay it when you have all the players present. If it has to be delayed until 2001 then I call on the United States to take the lead and abolish mandatory morse code testing once and forever. Let's give this form of discrimination a pleasant send off. Finally one parting comment, if the ability to send and receive morse code is so important then why isn't there a mandatory requalification exam required say every two years. I'm quite sure there would be an uproar if that was implemented on licensed amateurs who presently have privileges below 30 mhz.

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